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cient in euphony. But the author is evidently much constrained by the metre, and adapts to it many unusual words, and forms either obsolete or of his own invention. He also suffers himself often to employ the same word with a wearisome frequency. We dare not estimate without counting the number of times the word *ruth* occurs in the first half-dozen cantos. On the whole, we doubt whether the English reader has at his command so genuine a representation as this of the "Divina Commedia"; but as an English poem it is entitled to a much less favorable verdict.

19. — 1. *An Historical Atlas, with Description, Illustration, and Questions to facilitate its Use.* By J. E. WORCESTER. New and Revised Edition. Boston: Brown, Taggard, and Chase. 1856. Charts 12. pp. 36.
2. *Manual of United States History, from 1492 to 1850.* By SAMUEL ELIOT, Professor of History and Literature in Trinity College. Boston: Hickling, Swan, and Brown. 1856. 12mo. pp. 483.

DR. WORCESTER first made the study of history possible in our common schools. True, there were certain (so-called) manuals, through which pupils were driven in a series of formal recitations, but from which it was not expected that they should retain any idea or impression, beyond a few salient names and essential dates. Dr. Worcester rendered in this department a double service, first in the preparation of a text-book of general history, which it was a pleasure to read and therefore a privilege to study, and then in constructing a series of charts, adapted for use equally as a school manual and as a permanent reference-book. The "General History," we believe, still holds a place in the school-room, and for certain classes of pupils there is no work extant that ought to be substituted for it. The charts, originally nine, are now twelve; they are in a much enlarged form, present the record of names and events down to the year 1856, and have manifestly been subjected to the most careful revision. The arrangement of the materials is simple and natural; names, dates, and facts are put just where they belong; and the book can be consulted with as little waste of time, and as much directness and certainty, as an alphabetical dictionary. We have on our table the edition of 1826, — a date when similar tabular views and works of reference were rare everywhere, and hardly known to the American press. In the multitude of such helps now, we deem the edition of 1856 not one whit less valuable than was its precursor in the unoccupied field thirty years ago.

We have connected Professor Eliot's name with Mr. Worcester's, not because their minds or works have other than the most remote kindred, but because the one promises, though in a very different way, to perform for the coming the service rendered by the other to the passing generation, — that of adding facility and delight to the study of history. Mr. Eliot's "*History of the United States*" is a work entirely *sui generis*. It is constructed by no plan, on no scale, with reference to no theory. He has simply written the record of his country's life-time as it lay in his own mind, giving prominence to those points that most interested him, passing cursorily over events and epochs to which he was comparatively indifferent, never suppressing his own opinion or judgment, and marking not alone the nation's material progress, but its growth in art and literature, in the institutions that adorn and the charities that bless the state. Because Mr. Eliot is a man of taste and culture, pure principles and generous sympathies, — a man, too, alive in the present, and with a hopeful face turned to the future, — the story lay in his mind in just the form in which we would be glad to have it transferred to the minds of our youth. The work is not ostensibly a school-book, and its most obvious destination is for the reading public; but we know of no manual of United States history, that, for a college or a high-school class, could so effectively guide the instructions of a competent, stimulate the energy of a dull, or supply the deficiencies of an inadequate teacher.

20. — *Message of the President of the United States, communicating the Proceedings of the Commissioners for the Adjustment of Claims under the Convention of February 8th, 1853, between the United States and Great Britain.* Washington. 1856. 8vo. pp. 478.

THIS is by far the most important public document of the year, — we might almost say, of the age; for it records the successful installation of a new principle of international administration, — of a principle too that is full of promise for the peace of the civilized world. From the date of the treaty of Ghent, there had been an accumulation of causes of controversy between Great Britain and the United States, most of them growing out of such pecuniary claims as could be fairly decided only by a judicial process, and such as would have been promptly and satisfactorily decided, had there existed a court of competent jurisdiction. These claims were the subjects of complex and costly negotiations, were bruited in angry Parliamentary and Congressional speeches, furnished ready fuel for whatever embers of international hostility